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TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT
TO CHAIRMAN NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV, DATED 28 OCTOBER 1962

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I shall be grateful if you would be so good as to transmit the following message to Chairman Khrushchev:

"I wish to express my deep gratitude to Your Excellency for sending me a copy of your message to President Kennedy dated 28 October, in reply to President Kennedy's letter to Your Excellency of 27 October.

"I note the constructive proposals you have made in order to remove tension in the Caribbean area. I believe that when these proposals are implemented the situation in the Caribbean area will be normalized.

"I would like to inform Your Excellency that I have accepted an invitation extended to me by Prime Minister Fidel Castro on behalf of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba to visit his country. I feel that at the present time such a visit could contribute to the peaceful solution of the problem. As I stated in my letter to Premier Castro, the result of my discussions with him could lead to a solution 'by which the principle of respect for the sovereignty of Cuba would be assured, and it may also be possible for action to be taken which would reassure those countries which have felt themselves threatened by recent developments in Cuba.'

"I am particularly gratified to note that you have already instructed your officers to take the necessary measures to stop the building of missile bases, to dismantle them, and to return the missiles to the Soviet Union, and that you are ready to come to an agreement that representatives of the United Nations may verify the dismantling of these bases.

(more)

"I am also happy to note that the Soviet Government has sent to New York the First Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Mr. Kuznetsov, with a view to assisting me in my efforts. Mr. Kuznetsov is an old and valued friend, and I look forward very much to exchanging views with him as soon as he arrives. I shall discuss with Mr. Kuznetsov, as well as with Premier Castro, the modalities of verification by United Nations Observers to which you have so readily agreed, and I hope that I shall be able to reach a satisfactory understanding with them. "I am convinced that, with the spirit of co-operation and concern for peace that you have shown, the outcome of these discussions will be successful and satisfactory to all the parties concerned."

Yours sincerely,

U Thant
Acting Secretary-General

His Excellency Mr. V.A. Zorin
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Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet
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